



WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 9, 2015

8:00 am

Public Works Meeting Room

Meeting called by: Jason Skeels and Ellie Kurth

Type of meeting: Regularly Scheduled

Attendees: Lyons Witten (Chair), John Tobiason, Brian Yellen, Steve Mabee (note taker)

Visitors: Sigurd Nilsen (President of the Amherst Woods Association)

MINUTES

1. Minutes from previous meeting approved.
2. Update on snow and ice road treatments: (Jason)
 - a. Data has still not been analyzed. Hope to do it this summer once driver sheets are entered.
 - b. Tentatively appears that there was less overtime, but probably used more sand than previous year because of the colder temperatures and presence of more ice.
3. Update on sewer and water line extensions and replacements. (Jason)
 - a. Harkness Road—Water 100% complete, some connections made. Sewer line is in and waste water pump station going in now. Hope to get system up and running soon. Waste Water pump station is a wet well suction design. Have an infiltration problem somewhere in the line which will be identified with line testing soon and fixed before connections can be made.
 - b. Pine Street—sewer and water done. Sidewalks and topcoat of asphalt will complete the project this summer.
 - c. Amherst Woods—Phase I sewer has resumed after winter. Dewatering has commenced on Woodlot Road to handle bad water conditions. Installing 6-7, 36 inch diameter bores to 40 feet with a 12 inch discharge pipe surrounded by a sand pack. Two installed so far. Expect to dewater about 1000 linear feet of road. Discharge to Lawrence Swamp after passing through settling pond. All work, including service connections and line testing completed over the summer. Possibly ready for connections in October 2015. **ACTION ITEM:** Committee recommends that dewatering wells be abandoned using modified DEP specifications. Committee recommends wells be cut off well below road grade, 12 inch pipe be filled with

concrete or other suitable material and then 2 to 4 feet of compacted low permeability clay ($<10^{-7}$ cm/sec) be placed over the entire 36 inch borehole cross sectional area. This is to prevent seepage under the roadway.

Phase 2 – Design is 90% done. Expect to send out to bid early winter 2015 with a spring 2016 construction start.

- d. Harris/Fisher Streets—Design is complete. Still on hold until funding can be secured.
- e. Northampton Road—Water main replacement, needs increased capacity. Extends from Route 9 / Route 116 junction to just above University Drive. Design is 95% complete. Will need MassDOT permit. Bidding on hold.

4. Wells, water treatment plants, and storage tanks: (Ellie)

- a. Update on Centennial WTP upgrades—Pilot testing on a preferred treatment method is complete. Though data not compiled probably will settle on dissolved air flotation (DAF) to remove organics. Tighe and Bond to do design. Completed project is many years away.

5. Watershed protection activities. (Ellie)

- a. Watershed Forestry Projects—Finished Amherst Road red pine eradication project. Now monitoring area for invasives. Brad (forester) developing a cutting plan for forestry compartment 8 where there is also a stand of red pines that need removal. Brad also developing a cutting plan for the Brewer Road area in forestry compartments 5, 6 and 7. **ACTION ITEM:** Committee has concerns as to the rationale for cutting in these compartments. Committee would like an explanation or a visit from the forester to explain the reasoning for the work in this part of the watershed.
- b. Property acquisition projects—
 - i. Parcel 6B-50 off Overlook Drive – Grant obtained to purchase this parcel.
 - ii. Parcel immediately North of 6B-50 – Appraisal completed on this parcel was very reasonable. Town is seeking avenues to fund acquisition of this parcel.

6. NEXT MEETING September 10, 2015 (Thursday)

7. Other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before the meeting—John Tobiason asked about the status of SWMI and Amherst's permit. Permit renewal has not come up yet. Governor Baker is looking at many environmental regulations to assess their cost and value to the Commonwealth. Division of Ecological Restoration is continuing to collect stream gage data above Atkins Reservoir and near Well #3.

8. Adjourned 9:10 am